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NIO # 1040-74

Approved For Release 2006/06/15 : CIA-RDP91M00696R000300110013-8

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SP - 63/74
17 May 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Colby

SUBJECT: Draft Response to PFIAB Letter

1. We have received comments and suggestions from the several agencies and components whose assistance was requested. There was general concurrence that the approach is about right. Many of the suggestions were helpful, and the attached draft reflects their accommodation.

2. Two major suggestions of substance were not accommodated. Both pertain to paragraph 4.

--DIA believes we should say flatly that the Soviets "desire to achieve a margin of superiority" (not by opportunism but by design, and not just if they can), and agrees with PFIAB that the Soviets perceive themselves as "approaching the threshold of overall superiority in strategic power."

--INR believes the Soviets may view such programs as Trident and B-1 as threatening to widen the qualitative gap, and believes we should say "it is too early to judge whether their current active strategic weapons development efforts are intended to keep up with the competition or whether they hope to surpass the US eventually and achieve a margin of superiority."

3. The DIA and INR suggestions obviously pull in completely opposite directions, so I think we should stick with our original language. I have introduced mention of US improvements, tinkered with the "margin of superiority" expression to make it word-for-word from the NIE, and left your expressed difference with PFIAB exactly as previously drafted.

4. Please note that the convention of using "ticks" for ease of reading, a good suggestion from Ed Proctor, forced me to move your own additional sentence, about Soviet policy gains in the eyes of other nations, from paragraph 2 to paragraph 3. The reason is that the sentence is not a part of the estimate from which the ticked-off points were drawn.

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5. This draft is being sent to General Walters, Dan Graham, George Carver, Ed Proctor, and Carl Duckett, so that if you want to have a final discussion of it at your morning meeting they will have the text.

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Howard Stoertz, Jr.
National Intelligence Officer
for Strategic Programs

Attachment:
Draft

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Distribution:

Orig - Addressee

- 1 - DDCI
- 1 - Gen. Graham (IC)
- 1 - Dr. Proctor (DDI)
- 1 - Mr. Duckett (DDS&T)
- 1 - D/DCI/NIO
- 1 - ER
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